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Friday November 22 1996

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Friday Review



Boy George: Catholicism to Hare Krishna and back

Music page 10



David Mamet: Have cheap thrills replaced real drama?

Screen page 4

With Eclipse on the air



A controlled explosion makes safe a 600lb car bomb outside the RUC headquarters in Londonderry yesterday. An IRA splinter group had telephoned a warning PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL FAITH

Car bomb awakens fears of violence

David Sharrock and Ewen MacAskill

A MASSIVE car bomb was defused outside RUC headquarters in Londonderry yesterday, adding to the mood of fatalism in the province as people on both sides of the divide fear a slide back into widespread violence.

The 600lb bomb, packed into 13 plastic bags in the back of a Renault, was claimed to be the work of a little known republican splinter group. The IRA Continuity Army Council called media on both sides of the border, without using a recognised codeword, warning of the bomb. The area was evacuated and Army disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on the car, which was found to contain homemade fertiliser-based explosives.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, John Hume, who is MP for the city, said he was deeply angered. "The people who are engaged in this activity today are enemies of the people of Derry," he said. Mr Hume insisted, however, that an IRA ceasefire could yet be achieved.

The IRA Continuity Army Council claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Killyvevlin Hotel in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, in July. In September it abandoned a car bomb in central Belfast, which was also neutralised by the army.

The group is believed to draw its small membership mainly from the west of Ulster. Republican Sinn Fein, the party which broke with Gerry Adams's Provisional Sinn Fein in 1986, has denied that CAC is its military wing, but they share the belief that

the British presence can be removed only by violence. Police said yesterday's bomb, in Strand Road, close to the heart of Derry, would have had a devastating impact upon the city centre. Its impact on the battered peace process and the accompanying jittery peace was already being felt across Northern Ireland last night.

As winter sets in, the mood of people is becoming ever more gloomy. On the ground the landscape is beginning to revert to stereotype, with increasing army and RUC patrols and checkpoints.

Soundings taken across the province among security, political, republican and loyalist sources all point towards the same chilling conclusion that there is nothing to prevent the return to widespread violence.

Recent speculation that the IRA is holding an unofficial ceasefire while Mr Hume seeks concessions from John Major on Mr Adams's behalf and that a new ceasefire could be in place by Christmas has been scotched by words as well as deeds. Republican sources have denied the newspaper stories and last weekend police foiled an IRA landmine attack on a security patrol in Derry.

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, emerged from talks with the Prime Minister at Downing Street yesterday to demand that he make a statement on the behind-the-scenes talks he is having with Mr Hume.

The Government was running the danger of a "loss of confidence" among the people of Ulster if he failed to make the negotiations public, he said. Downing Street later insisted there were no plans for the Prime Minister to make

Schools tagging row

Curfew orders on 10 to 15-year-olds

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

NEW legislation forcing children as young as 10 to wear electronic tags to ensure they stay in school was greeted with a barrage of criticism last night.

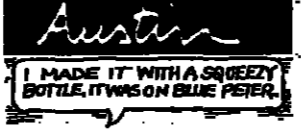
Under the legislation, the trials of US-style electronic tags to monitor curfew orders for adults will be extended to offenders aged 10 to 15.

The use of the tags to monitor attendance at school — an extension of the proposals not previously revealed — will not need the agreement of

teachers or education authorities. They are also intended to be used to keep young offenders away from potential trouble spots such as shopping centres and football matches. The schemes are run by private security companies.

The proposals provoked a chorus of protests from within the criminal justice system. Mary Honeyball, of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said the use of an electronic device "to take the place of a responsible adult to control the behaviour of a child is a deeply misguided idea".

Chief probation officers predicted that children would wear the tags to school as "a trophy" and would live up to the "hard image" by repeatedly breaching the curfew simply to "cock a snook at the adult world". The Penal Affairs Consortium said it was "one of the worst ideas yet to tackle juvenile crime".



I MADE IT WITH A SQUEEZY BOTTLE. IT WAS ON BLUE PETER.

The new law was tabled as

Keeping track

Developed and first used in 1983 by Judge Jack Lyle of New Mexico, US, the system tags juveniles with electronic devices which track their movements.

First trials in Britain in 1990 were abandoned after a pilot scheme was abandoned by years of changing government.

New £7.4 million trials began in July 1995 and have been extended to next year in Manchester, Reading and Norfolk.

an amendment to Michael Howard's Crime (Sentences) Bill yesterday by the Home Office Minister, David Maclean. He said tagging would detect immediately whether an offender was breaking the curfew, whether at home or at school.

The curfew orders, which could last up to three months, are expected to be used by the courts mostly for children who have been involved repeatedly in crimes such as shoplifting, vandalism and hooliganism. No parental consent will be needed but the courts will have to take account of family circumstances when setting the hours of the curfew, for example if all adults in the household are out working at the time.

The orders mean the juveniles could be in effect under house arrest for up to 12 hours at a time.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats accused Mr Maclean of timing his announcement to deflect attention from a highly critical official Audit Commission report on youth crime published yesterday.

The report, *Missing Youth*, revealed chronic failings in the £1 billion-a-year juvenile justice system and backed cheaper schemes which diverted youngsters

away from crime rather than using the expensive and ineffective courts. Mr Maclean yesterday dismissed the 18-month official study as "pathetically defeatist".

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said yesterday's tagging announcement had been foreshadowed in John Major's speech to the Tory party conference and represented a "recycling of old headlines as a desperate attempt to obscure the Audit Commission's damning report on the Government's failure on youth crime".

But Charles Rose, managing director of Geografix, the company running the Home Office trials in Norfolk, said: "The consensus seems to be that tagging works. Over 18 months we have proven that we can monitor the observance of curfews on adult offenders. The success rate of people complying with the orders has been exceptional."

Match box watch, page 4

Widow loses fight to have husband's sperm exported

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

DLANE Blood's hopes of having her dead husband's baby were dashed again last night when the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority refused to send his frozen sperm abroad.

Her battle for the right to be artificially inseminated with sperm taken from her unconscious husband, Stephen, as he lay dying has attracted nationwide sympathy and more than £20,000 in donations towards her legal fees.

Mrs Blood, aged 30, re-mortgaged her house to take the

case to the High Court after the authority refused permission for the procedure, arguing it would be unlawful because Mr Blood, who went into a coma after contracting meningitis, had not consented in writing.

The court held that under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act written consent was necessary for the insemination to be carried out in Britain.

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the court's family division, also ruled that the authority was not acting unreasonably in refusing to export the sperm for use abroad, a move which was within its discretion.

eminent figures including the fertility treatment pioneer, Lord Winston, and Baroness Warnock, who chaired the committee leading to the authority's creation, backed Mrs Blood's wish to have her husband's baby. Baroness Warnock told the court: "I feel certain that had the committee of inquiry considered such a case, we would have seen no ethical or public policy objections to allowing the woman to become pregnant by the use of her husband's frozen sperm, either in this country or abroad, given the particular facts."

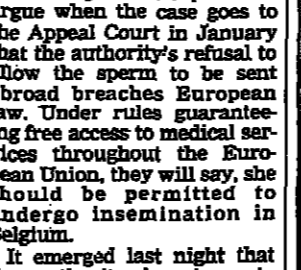
Amid a wave of national sympathy for Mrs Blood's plight, the authority, headed by Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, agreed to reconsider its decision.

But last night it was maintaining its stance that the export of sperm abroad is unlawful if it would be used for purposes unlawful in Britain. Mrs Blood could be inseminated at clinics in Belgium or Florida if the authority would agree to release her husband's sperm.

Mrs Blood's father, Michael McMahon, last night said she was distraught and outraged over the decision. She plans to press ahead with an appeal against the High Court ruling.

Her lawyers are expected to argue when the case goes to the Appeal Court in January that the authority's refusal to allow the sperm to be sent abroad breaches European law. Under rules guaranteeing free access to medical services throughout the European Union, they will say, she should be permitted to undergo insemination in Belgium.

It emerged last night that the authority has been in close contact with lawyers at the Department of Health, who have advised that the original extraction of sperm without Mr Blood's consent was unlawful and should never have been carried out.



Diane Blood... taking fight to the Court of Appeal

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2 NEWS

Sketch

He's the leader with a gangbang on his hands



Simon Hoggart

MPs WERE outraged yesterday when they heard that members of a quasi-political gang, which has been terrorising the British people for years, had been allowed to wander openly and unattended around the Commons.

"They could have been working out where to strike next," said one appalled member. "They are disgusting hypocrites, pretending that they are just ministers and have nothing to do with the Government which has brought untold misery to the British people over the last two decades."

Their anger focused on the Government's refusal to hold a proper debate and a vote on the new single currency regulations recently sent over from Brussels for member states to discuss. Bored already?

Of course you are. So, very briefly, the Government has been trying to duck a full debate on the new regulations because they would expose the divisions in the Conservative Party. They might even lose the vote.

The Prime Minister got a whiff of the universal crossness when David Heathcoat-Amory (C, Wells), who resigned this year over Europe, demanded a debate. Mr Major replied that this was not necessary, since the new regulations would apply only to countries that joined the single currency.

As it happens this is not the case. Many of the penalties and sanctions in the new regulations would apply equally to countries which had opted out. But no one should be surprised by the Prime Minister's mis-statement. These days the truth and Mr Major are rather like Greece and Turkey: they are obliged to live together, but the relationship is always grudging and often hostile. But it was poor Tony New-

ton, the Leader of the House, who got the full blast of their rage. Mr Newton is a nice man, if unwilling to commit himself. ("Nice day, Tony!" "Humm, I do not think I would necessarily be stepping outside the limits of my brief if I were to agree that, yes, the sun does appear to be shining — on a provisional basis.") He is, you might say, the Gerry Adams of the outfit, a safe public face who implies that they can't all be bloodthirsty desperadoes.

Traditionally the leader is a vaguely non-political figure, supposed to pay more heed to the rights of the Commons than to the convenience of the executive. For that reason his weekly question session is usually a fairly courteous, downbeat affair.

Not yesterday. Yesterday it was more like a gangbang. No sooner had one brute finished scolding Mr Newton than another was unbuckling his metaphorical belt.

"You are riding roughshod over Parliament. The Government is contemptuous of democracy," said one. "You are profoundly wrong," said another. "You are risking your reputation, and risk being thought a willing participant in a disreputable subterfuge," said a third. And they were just the Tories.

Labour was equally angry, but soon realised that they could sit back, like Tom Sawyer with the fence-painting, and let others do the work. John Stanley (Tonbridge) said the Government was setting a "dangerous precedent". Michael Cartliss (Yarmouth) wanted to know what ministers were afraid of. Tony "Von" Marlow (Northampton N) was beside himself. Why should the Government deserve our support? he fumed.

"Give us time on the floor of the House," cried Iain Duncan-Smith (Chingford). John Wilkinson (Ruislip), who had talked about a "disreputable subterfuge", even compared the MPs' annoyance to the same issue as at stake — the abuse of executive power.

Will they hold the Westminster Tea Party? Actually they do all the time, so it wouldn't make much of a protest.

To all this poor Mr Newton was reduced to saying sadly, over and over again: "I don't think I can add to what I said earlier." He will.

Review

Characters strive for sympathy and skip balance test

Derek Malcolm

Some Mother's Son London Film Festival

IT IS a bit of a disadvantage being a mere film critic at the London Festival these days. The place is full of leader writers. Another politically controversial time-bomb was shown last night: Terry George's *Some Mother's Son*, with Helen Mirren in the lead as the mother of one of the hunger strikers in the Maze prison of 1981.

"Will the film be banned, Terry?" shouted a supporter when the director and Jim Sheridan, the producer and writer, took the stage afterwards. "I hope so," said George. "Preferably before we open in America in December." After Westminster council's decision to ban David Cronenberg's *Crash*, you feel that anything might happen.

The film is unlikely to be judged as a work of art any more than the Cronenberg epic, since it so obviously takes the hunger strikers' side, claiming historical accuracy as it does so. Mirren plays a woman who has never voted but who is finally politicised and joins in the campaign for Bobby Sands — the first martyr of the strike.

She is devastated when her son joins the hunger strike and reaches the critical list. She then has to make the decision whether to save him or

not by signing a document when he loses consciousness. All this, and rather more in the way of presenting the dilemmas of IRA supporters, the British government and the people of Northern Ireland in general, is accomplished with some power and skill. But it's a pity that the British are mostly presented as Thatcherite dummies, while the republicans are drawn so much more sympathetically.

The film tries at times for an even hand — some nice British soldiery aid Mirren when her car gets stuck on the beach, and there are a few lines in the screenplay which suggest that it wasn't only British intransigence that ruled OK.

On the whole, though, this is a portrait of a terrible time that does not even pretend to be wholly balanced. The Irish performances are uniformly excellent, with Fionnula Flanagan particularly good as an IRA member who befriends Mirren's character, and John Lynch as Sands not far behind. Mirren, of course, is one of our best actresses and shows it again here.

Added to that, the filmmaking does not look like mere polemic, even if it occasionally is. George and Sheridan try hard to talk about people as much as politics. And last night's audience gave them solid applause for their effort. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Teachers 'partly to blame'

Donald MacLeod

POOR teaching is contributing to the rise in the number of children expelled from schools, the chief schools inspector said yesterday.

Chris Woodhead, head of the Office for Standards in Education, said pupils who had not been taught to read adequately at primary school were likely to become frustrated and dis-

ruptive at secondary school. Problems were compounded by boring lessons. "Children taught badly are children likely to become bored, and bored children are likely to misbehave," he said.

The report on exclusions from secondary schools found an unacceptable variation between schools, with "trigger-happy" schools expelling too many pupils and others reluctant to take action in the face of disruption.



Firefighters survey the ruins of La Fenice opera house in Venice after the January 29 fire which experts now say was arson

La Fenice blaze blamed on mafia

Leaked report says gangsters razed Venice opera house

John Hooper in Rome

THE fire that destroyed Venice's La Fenice opera house was started deliberately and with the aim of raising the historic building to the ground, an expert study has concluded.

A leaked extract from the report by Amedeo Torzo — a fire investigation specialist — said the work of organised criminals hoping to cash in on the reconstruction.

Evidence from Mr Torzo suggests the arsonists were not only highly professional but bent on causing as much damage as possible.

Sometimes referred to as the world's most beautiful theatre, La Fenice was the setting for the premieres of Verdi's *La Traviata* and Rigoletto. It was under-

going extensive renovation when it was consumed by fire on January 29.

The passage from Mr Torzo's report says the blaze was started at three separate points. The first was an area under the roof used for creating props and "absolutely invisible from ground level".

The second was the upper gallery. Mr Torzo's notes, prepared for the prosecutor, say starting a fire there had "the aim of distracting". The fire brigade concentrated on the gallery, while "the area under the roof burned invisibly".

A third point of origin was discovered in or near the foyer. This blaze "had, in addition, the aim of thwarting the investigation by casting blame on those who were working there".

Mr Torzo is quoted as having told the prosecutor: "The seat of the fire under the roof was intended to bring about the certain destruction of the theatre in the event that the fire brigade succeeded in putting out the blaze started on top of the foyer."

Diario della Settimana, a supplement to the daily newspaper *L'Unita*, says the prosecutor has provisionally concluded that mafiosi were brought in to start the fire by a contractor. The contractor's firm was behind with its work and he wanted to avoid having to pay penalties set out in his contract.

The magazine says there is evidence to suggest that the blaze was the work of gangsters belonging to a loosely organised Neapolitan mafia, known as the Camorra.

Clarke 'ignoring public spending timebomb'

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is drawing a veil over a public spending timebomb to justify tax cuts in next week's Budget, the Guardian's panel of economists warns today.

In their annual pre-Budget report, the "Wise Women" also say Mr Clarke is unlikely to hit his inflation target of 2.5 per cent, and call for an immediate increase in the cost of borrowing. "A rise in base rates from 6 per cent to 6.5 per cent before the election would possibly remove the need for a rise to at least 7 per cent after the election," their report says.

The group questions the Government's spending plans — which are extremely tight for before an election — and says there is no economic case for a giveaway budget.

Tax cuts should not even be on the agenda, the report says. But with many backbenchers telling the Chancellor that only income tax cuts can deliver a fifth term, the Wise Women expect him to trim 1p off the basic rate, currently 24p in the pound. "Mr Clarke cannot ignore the political background," they say. "If he opts for prudence... and the Tories lose, Mr Clarke might find himself described as the chancellor who lost the election."



Dr Ann Robinson... 'tax cuts should not be on agenda'

The panel says these three departments account for almost two thirds of state expenditure, and points out that previous Treasury projections for spending cuts have proved wildly optimistic. But given the political salience of hospitals and schools, the group expect Mr Clarke to announce increases in these budgets, balanced by a squeeze on local authorities and cuts in new investment. Despite misgivings about the public finances, the Wise Women say the economy is generally in good shape, with prices rising modestly, growth steady and consumer confidence on the rise.

The Guardian's Wise Women are: Dr Ann Robinson, director general of the National Association of Pension Funds; Professor Janette Rutterford, professor of finance at the Open University; Dr Penelope Rowlett, director of National Economic Research Associates; Marian Bell, treasury economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland; and Eronwyn Curtis, deputy managing director and chief economist at the Nomura Research Institute. Pamela Meadows, director of the Policy Studies Institute, is joining the panel. Details, page 12

Major fails to dampen Euro row

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major was once again plunged into a crisis over Europe last night after failing to convince angry MPs that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will not be allowed to make concessions on the EU's single currency before the Commons debates the implications for economic sovereignty.

After another day of turmoil in Westminster's bubbling Euro-war, Conservative Euro-sceptics at last night's crowded meeting of the backbench 1522 committee noisily demanded cast-iron assurances from Mr Major that Mr Clarke will make no irreversible deals with fellow finance ministers on December 2.

The Prime Minister had told a crowded Commons during Question Time that "no final decisions are being taken" at the finance ministers' meeting 10 days before the full Dublin summit on December 12-14.

But Tony Blair later wrote to him claiming his remarks had been "wholly inaccurate" at various points. Former Tory ministers such as David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned over Europe in July, agreed. One Conservative sceptic later said it made him "sick to the back teeth to see the PM being out-scepticked by Tony Blair".

Tory loyalists admit the issue has been mishandled since 150 MPs on both sides called for a proper debate on obscure regulations at the heart of a rowdy, symbolic government defeat in a Commons committee this week.

In refusing the debate, Mr Major appears keen to prevent the combative Mr Clarke and his party critics beating the daylight out of each other under the TV lights. "Ken wouldn't back down, nor would they," said one MP. Mr Clarke's priority is getting Tuesday's electioneering Budget right, not fighting colleagues.

Mr Blair's chief interest is in

widening the Tory split by backing calls for a full Commons debate on the three disputed EU regulations which would create a new exchange rate mechanism, create supranational monitoring powers and a "stability pact" to help sustain a single currency.

Mr Major yesterday argued "they would only apply to those countries that enter into a single currency", and promised MPs their routine pre-summit debate next month — after the six-day Budget debate, but not before Mr Clarke attends the finance meeting. It could, in theory, take binding decisions that would come into effect immediately on the single currency "outs" as well as the "ins".

John Redwood last night wrote to Mr Clarke seeking binding assurances that he will not make such concessions on December 2. Other MPs think he will not dare in the present tense climate. Still more will press Mr Major this weekend.

To sceptics in both parties the issue is the protection of national sovereignty against what the former chancellor, Norman Lamont, called "a legislative one-way street of rules which Britain could agree, but not subsequently reverse". He warned that much of Britain's reserves could end up under EU control. Colleagues argue they would become the subject of fines if Britain misses the Maastricht rules on spending and borrowing — even outside the single currency — if Germany's tough proposals are endorsed.

Amid talk of "disreputable subterfuge", the Leader of the Commons, Tony Newton, faced repeated challenges from Labour and Tories not to table procedural motions behind their backs.

Tony Marlow, a Tory, warned that if he did so without proper debate, the Government would be "riding roughshod over Parliament". Ministers intend to tough it out and, because of the Budget debate, there is now no chance before the December 2 meeting.

Advertisement for RadioTimes featuring the text: 'If you'd like to understand what's happening on Sci-Fi TV, Radio Times Sci-Fi page will tell you everything you need to know, and it's not in Klingon!' and the RadioTimes logo with the slogan 'IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.'

Woman's Self

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Sarah Bush... considers

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Woman deceived for 17 years by transsexual husband

Self-made man loses claim to fortune

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

A MAN born a woman whose wealthy former wife insists she was unaware of their 17-year marriage...

Yesterday three Court of Appeal judges ruled that his "gross deception" in marrying her without disclosing the truth debarred him from a share in the £400,000 family home...

thing that she knows doesn't belong to her. All I can do now is pursue my application for contact with my children and pursue my case to the European Court of Human Rights.

He later claimed they had a normal sex life using at first a penis he made from plaster of Paris. Then they both went to a Sobo sex shop to choose a penis extension.

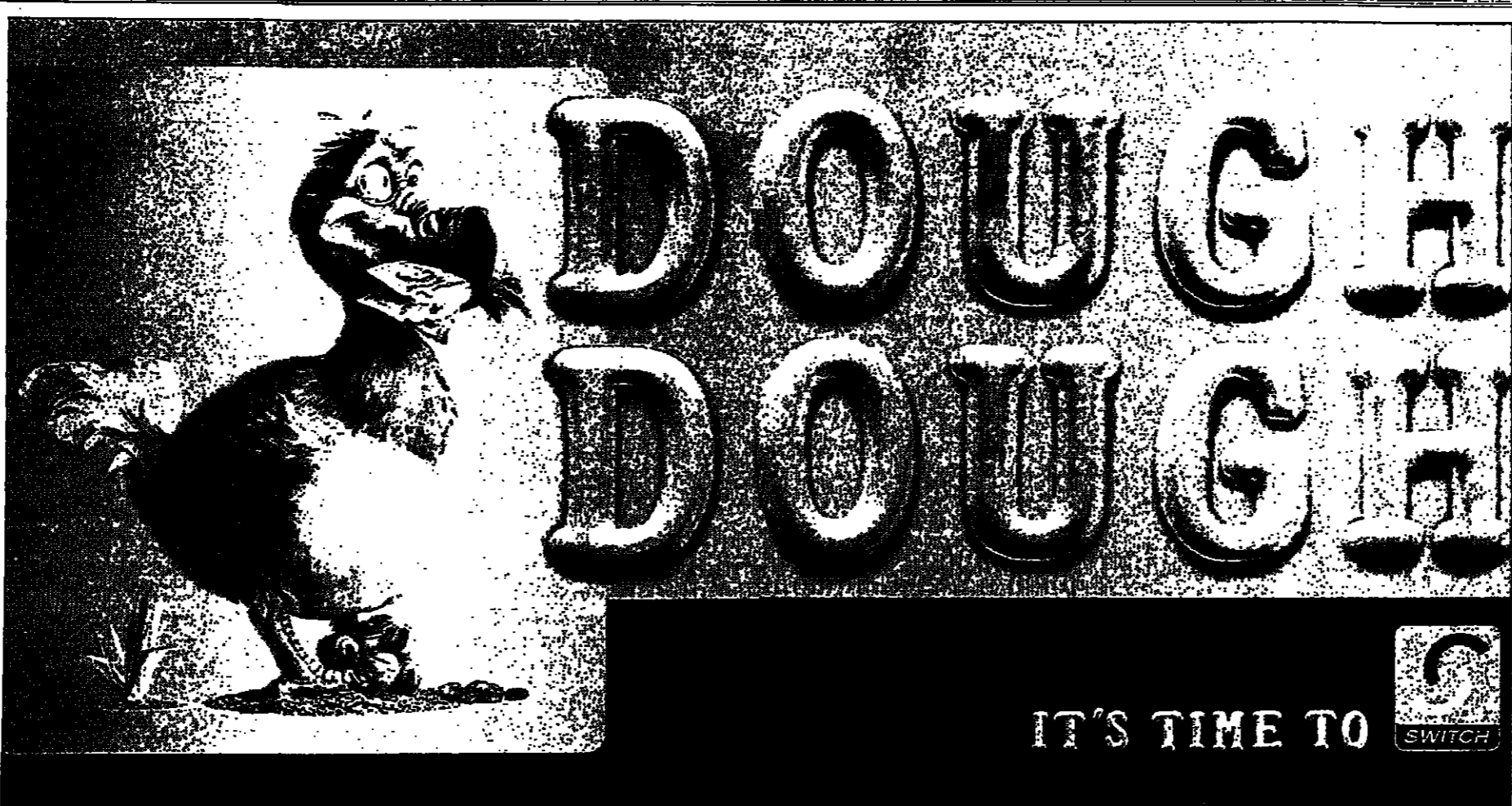
sex, as they can in New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and some US states.

the truth being disclosed or discovered is one of the puzzling... features of this case. The relationship broke down and the wife petitioned for divorce in 1994.

Lord Justice Ward added: "Many — and I am one of them — will find it quite astonishing that there was no single occasion in 17 years of life together when her eyes did not see, or her hands or her body feel, or her senses tell her that she was living with a man who had the genital formation of a woman, a man who did not simply have a small or deformed penis, but had no penis at all."

marry him in the unhappily ambiguous condition to which he is condemned. The fundamental essence of matrimony must be... buttressed by refusing to permit the defendant taking any advantage from the decree of nullity which has annulled this travesty of marriage.

The off-the-wall idea, honed over a long lunch, will no longer turn into a commercial in the cash-strapped 90s without painstaking research to ensure that sample groups of customers will actually like it



One of the Switch posters, in the running for the least liked modern advert within the industry. Others include the Ford Ka commercial and X-Files spoof for a mobile phone company

BBC to make series on IRA

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

THE BBC is to risk provoking an embarrassing political row by producing a documentary on the history of the modern IRA.

The series, which has the working title The Provos, is to be screened next autumn, and will examine the development of the IRA and its relationship with Sinn Fein since 1969.

The project is certain to spark a strong political reaction at Westminster and in Northern Ireland. Coverage of the conflict has been one of the most sensitive areas for broadcasters.

In 1985 the controversy over the Real Lives programme, which featured an interview with Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness, prompted Margaret Thatcher to accuse the BBC of giving the oxygen of publicity to terrorists.

The history of the republican movement will be presented by Peter Taylor, who has reported on Ireland for 25 years, and be broadcast in three or four 50-minute parts.

The BBC has been planning to keep details under wraps because of the sensitivity of the subject matter. The ending in February of the IRA's ceasefire has given added topicality to the series.

A spokeswoman for BBC News said: "It will be a proper piece of journalism — the whos, wheres and whats — as you would expect from a journalist of Peter Taylor's calibre."

She said it was an entirely appropriate subject for a BBC programme. "It is a vital part of the history of the past 25 years, which has had an impact on us all."

The programme would be balanced with views from the British and Irish governments, but interviews had yet to be arranged.

Peter Taylor has consistently brought inside knowledge and depth into the reporting of the problems of Northern Ireland, she said.

Coverage of Northern Ireland merited a full chapter in the BBC's revised Producers' Guidelines issued last week, which state: "Reporting of Northern Ireland is seen as a litmus test of the BBC's fairness and independence."

It is likely the project would have been referred to senior executives in Northern Ireland and the BBC's controller of editorial policy.

Sarah Boseley on a confidence crisis

When years ago, the advertising industry was fabled to be a place of high-living, coke-sniffing creative ferment, where a young whiz-kid's Big Idea suddenly became the jungle on every tongue and stuffed his pockets full of bank notes.

Life of a salesman

Admen — and the majority are men — come in a variety of roles, but Campaign magazine's lifestyle survey suggests most are less stylish than their 1980s image.

Markis and Spencer was the top store for work clothes (15%) followed by Next (9%) and Jigsaw (7%).

sure sample groups of customers will like it. "Everything now is researched so much," said Graham Fink, president of the Design and Art Directors Association, and a director of the Paul Welland Film Company. "A lot of things get watered down. The creative team write something really good and by the time it is on the air, it is only half as good. There's now a lot of style over content."

After the news, their favourite television programme is Friends (18%), followed by sport (11%) and Eastenders (8%).

Their favourite makes of car are Mercedes, followed by BMW, Porsche, Aston Martin and Jaguar.

Their top five children's names are Toby, Tom, James, Alexander/Alexandra and Lucy.

If they were not in advertising, their chosen professions would be as barrister, writer, actor, artist and merchant banker.

Most would vote Labour (44%), then Conservative (38%), then Liberal Democrat (10%).

Their favourite newspaper is the Times (19%), followed by the Guardian (13%), the Daily Telegraph (12%), the Independent (9%) and the Daily Mail (7%).

Mr Fink was responsible for a runaway success of the 80s — the British Airways television commercial which showed thousands of people grouped to look like a pair of lips, and then an eye and an ear that transformed into the world. It was the classic Big Idea — very simple and designed to work in any country.

Now they would start talking about what type of lips and should it be a blue or a green eye," Mr Fink said. Advertising should get back to ideas, he added, like the Carling Black Label and Hamlet cigar ads and the surrealist early Benson and Hedges campaign

— "that was really different". He is not alone in the industry in disliking the Bob Hoskins British Telecom adverts, which last week came top of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising's Effectiveness Awards. Some say its success has little to do with much apart from Bob Hoskins — just as the two children in the Safeway's ad have ensured it got coverage in all the tabloid newspapers.

Adam Crozier, joint chief executive of Saatchi and Saatchi, is more enthusiastic. "Most of the people here really do believe in what they do — here people are feeling very buoyant." But he ac-

knowledges we are no longer in the heady 80s. "The pressures are much greater and there are fewer people who will go with a gut decision."

Dave Waters, creative director of Duckworth, Finn, Grubb, Waters, which took honours in the IPA awards for the Daewoo campaign, sees a change: "It's less gung-ho since the recession hit. It has been a difficult time for clients to put their heads on the chopping block."

A good agency will still back a bright idea, he believes. "Look at Levi's — it's still as good as it ever was." But isn't that the point?

There is another way in which the industry has changed, Mr Waters would say. The survey revealed that 57 per cent had used drugs or knew a colleague who had — not in his agency of course, which is responsible for an anti-drugs campaign. But the high-rolling cocaine days have gone. "Since the recession, nobody is going to put up with that kind of behaviour."

So which modern advert does the industry like best? Those in the running include the Switch posters, the new Ford Ka commercial, and the X-Files spoof for a mobile phone company.



One of the children in the Safeway ads: a boon to tabloids

Advertisement for Dell Dimension XPS Pro 180n PC. Features include Intel 180MHz Pentium Pro Processor, 16MB EDO RAM, 256KB cache, 266 EIDE hard drive, Number 9 Reality 332 PCI graphics card with 2MB video memory, 15" colour SVGA monitor (13.75" viewable area), eight speed CD-ROM drive, mini tower or mid-sized desktop chassis, Windows 95 & Microsoft Office Professional 95. Price: £1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. delivery + VAT). Includes Intel Inside Pentium Pro logo and Dell logo.

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Millennium wheel gets go-ahead

THE Government gave the go-ahead last night to the controversial £10 million Millennium Wheel, to be built on the South Bank of the Thames in central London. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, described it as "an inspired idea and an imaginative way" to mark the millennium.

Crash wife murdered

A JEALOUS husband who was found guilty of murdering his wife by deliberately crashing their car on a country road after she left him for another man was jailed for life at Swansea crown court yesterday.

Ridings authority probe

CALDERDALE, the education authority responsible for the Ridings School in Halifax which was temporarily closed to restore order, yesterday bowed to pressure from Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, to submit to an inspection of its services.

Strip award for Steve Bell

STEVE Bell was named Strip Cartoonist of the Year by the Cartoon Art Trust last night for his daily strip which he has drawn for the Guardian since 1981.

Ill ex-miners win benefits

THOUSANDS of ex-miners whose health suffered through working underground stand to receive up to £90 a week in extra benefits following a government decision last night.

Hospital waiting up 45pc

THE number of people waiting more than a year for hospital treatment leaped by 45 per cent during the summer, official figures show. Every English health region reported a rise in long waits.

Match box watch on offenders

ALAN Travis on uncompleted trials of technology to monitor curfews

Scientists scent 'missing' mass

SCIENTISTS using an ultraviolet telescope orbiting through space suspect they may be on the track of the missing 90 per cent of the universe.

Inquest told police pounced on black man 'like dogs on a cat'

A BLACK man who later died in custody was screaming in agony as police officers pounced on him "like dogs getting hold of a cat" and hit him repeatedly with their heavy batons, an inquest jury was told yesterday.

Million accidents a year injure patients and staff

MORE than 1 million people a year are injured in accidents in NHS hospitals, three quarters of them patients, says the National Audit Office in a report published today.



Christopher Howes's parents leaving the Foreign Office last night. PHOTOGRAPH: TONY HARRIS

Cambodia captive escape hopes high

THE family of a British mine clearance expert held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia for the past eight months said yesterday they were waiting with "fingers crossed" following reports that he had escaped.



Christopher Howes, who is thought to have escaped the Khmer Rouge. PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS PARRY

Electronic tagging

THE Prime Minister has decided to press ahead with legislation for electronic tagging to enforce curfews for children as young as 10, even though the official trials for adults have yet to finish.



CENTRAL AFRICA THE CHILDREN STILL NEED YOUR HELP. Hundreds of thousands of families are now on their way back home to Rwanda. But lives are still at risk. In the meantime, children have become separated from their parents. Many more are arriving hungry, dehydrated and weak with exhaustion.

Wayne Douglas: 'screaming'. As soon as he did other police officers stormed into the park. The black man stepped back a couple of paces. Before those officers were on to him, the two already in the park reached him first.

Million accidents a year injure patients and staff. MORE than 1 million people a year are injured in accidents in NHS hospitals, three quarters of them patients, says the National Audit Office in a report published today.

Halting urged

Seven tough

COM

طريق من الامل

Halting of tunnel shuttles urged as fire facts emerge

Keith Harper and Alex Duval Smith in Paris

The Consumers' Association last night repeated its call for the suspension of Eurotunnel's licence to run tourist shuttle trains through the Channel Tunnel after the company admitted that it was forced by Monday's emergency to fall back on its third, last-ditch, option for coping with fires.



Journalists inspect the damaged train in Calais yesterday

Eurotunnel's operations director, Alain Bertrand, said the evacuation of passengers had worked in textbook fashion and the incident had been managed in accordance with procedures.

But Colin Brown, the CA's deputy director of research, said: "The more we hear as the week goes on, the more we realise that safety systems failed. All these failures must cast serious doubts on the assurances given about the safety of passenger shuttles. We repeat our demands for suspension of the licence of the tourist shuttle trains."

In the first detailed account of the events which led to the shuttle being abandoned in mid-tunnel, Mr Bertrand confirmed two security guards at the Calais end had seen smoke coming from one of the lorries. They alerted the control centre, but by the time the driver was warned, he was two miles into the tunnel. He was told to keep going to Folkestone as part of standard security procedure to clear the tunnel in the event

of danger. But the train was forced to stop 12 miles into the tunnel when the cab warning light indicated flaps on the sides of a loading wagon had come adrift.

Mr Bertrand said that the first security plan was that the train should keep going so that the blaze would be dealt with in emergency sidings in the open. The second option was to uncouple the affected parts of the train and get the rest out of the tunnel. But this could not be done because the fire caused a power failure.

The third security option was then invoked. This involved Eurotunnel staff leading passengers to safety via the central service tunnel. This is pressurised, with doors every 376 metres, and is sealed from the effects of smoke or other pollution.

Mr Bertrand said the driver responded correctly to the warning light. This indicated that the fold-down sections of a loading wagon which enables lorries to drive on to the lattice work carriages were in the "down" position.

Mr Bertrand said that in such circumstances the train should stop because the sections could hit tunnel equipment or wiring systems and cause considerable damage.

He said the power failure prevented decoupling of the carriage where lorry drivers were eating. His explanation goes some way to answering the question as to why smoke entered the carriage.

Mr Bertrand admitted that the fire had been "very serious". At the time, the tunnel had contained two Eurostar trains, two tourist shuttles, and two lorry shuttles.

French accident investigators yesterday began examining the shuttle carriage on which the fire is believed to have started in a lorry. But the state prosecutor overseeing the investigation refused to comment on speculation that an incendiary device had been involved.

Gérard Lesigne, state prosecutor in Boulogne-sur-Mer, said: "We have no clues as to the cause of the fire."

Eurotunnel confirmed that it was entering a civil action over the incident — a move necessary in France to bring a private prosecution. A spokeswoman said: "We have no evidence of foul play."

Eurotunnel said its insurance would cover lost business and repairs to the 800 metres of tunnel damaged. But the group will be liable to pay an excess believed to equal three or four days' business, likely to amount to between £41 million and £58 million.

● F&O is to increase ferry sailings by 50 per cent to 30 a day with the continued closure of the tunnel to passenger traffic.

'Seven tough questions' for editors in privacy clampdown

Andrew Gull Media Correspondent

LORD Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, last night launched an initiative to clamp down on invasions of privacy by newspapers, outlining seven "central and tough" questions that editors should ask before publishing a story that invaded someone's privacy.

The move followed Lord Wakeham's warning two months ago that "flimsy" public interest defences were undermining the effectiveness of press self-regulation. Stories about the Princess of Wales video — before it

proved later to be a hoax — and an erroneous story linking Prince William with an aristocrat's daughter prompted growing concern about invasion of privacy.

Lord Wakeham, speaking at a club in London, said that 10 years ago invasions of the private lives of individuals were commonplace. "Today that is not the case; in fact the truth is that we are all the more shocked when such stories are printed simply because they are far less frequent."

But self-regulation would not survive if newspapers turned a blind eye to unjustified intrusions. "Down that route lies fines on newspapers and the in-

creasing involvement of the judiciary in setting standards of privacy."

Many MPs regard the public interest defence as a loophole in the code. Lord Wakeham said: "To me it is quite the opposite — it is the foundation stone on which a free press, with its ability to scrutinise those who exercise power, is built."

"Crucially, if the public interest defence is brought into disrepute, it will in the long run be the public's right to know which will suffer."

The seven questions editors should ask were not dictated, being imposed by the commission, but existing best practice in the newspaper industry. They include asking

whether the story is in the interests of public welfare or of public interest.

If photographs taken by clandestine means are used, editors should ask whether the public interest requires their automatic publication or whether they are simply illustrative.

Lord Wakeham said if there was a genuine public interest, editors should consider whether there are ways to disclose it which minimise the invasion into private lives and the impact on children and innocent relatives.

Earlier this week the commission announced the launch of Citizen's Charter style standards in handling complaints from the public.



Brian Fell with his sculpture which commemorates merchant seamen who died in the second world war. Riveted and welded like the hull of a ship, the two-ton structure stands by Cardiff Bay

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF MORGAN

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Stockman fined over deer deaths

Geoffrey Gibbs

DEER on an overstocked Cornish farm died from parasitic disease and malnutrition, Bodmin magistrates were told yesterday.

Police and RSPCA inspectors who visited the deer farm in April found pits where about 400 deer had been buried.

Robert Jasper, aged 40, who managed the business for Galtee Deer Care of Cork in the Irish republic, was fined 2500 after pleading guilty to six charges of causing unnecessary suffering to deer.

Robert Lee, prosecuting, told the court that Tre-

moorland Farm, Cardinham, was overstocked in September last year. In these conditions pasture would become contaminated by parasites unless animals were regularly wormed. Lungworm and gutworm infection would accelerate malnutrition.

A vet who visited the farm said the effects would have been noticeable in two to four weeks, and an experienced stockman would be expected to have taken action or sought advice.

Fining Jasper, magistrates' chairman Ronnie Potts said he shared the view of the defendant's solicitor that he was not the only person who should be in court.

But he told Jasper: "Your chief crime was allowing this situation to develop. You cannot be excused from not taking action which you obviously know you should have taken."

The court heard that the animals had died over a seven month period and that police and RSPA inspectors found some of the live animals to be "noticeably thin".

Mr Lee said Jasper told police his employer discouraged vets and claimed that the company would rather have an animal shot than incur vet fees.

The company did not appear to have been entirely blameless, Mr Lee said. Because of rent difficul-

ties, bailiffs took away machinery, preventing Jasper from feeding animals for several days.

He told police he kept strictly to a working routine but admitted that the farm was overstocked up to September last year.

He failed to call in a vet or seek advice "mainly because he was in fear of losing his job", Mr Lee said. "As a result deer continued to suffer. They were dropping like flies."

Jasper, who pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to falsifying records relating to deer deaths, has since been employed as a stockman by the farm's new tenant, who described him as "extremely good".

Fear of crime greater abroad than in Britain, poll shows

Stephen Bates in Brussels

FEAR of crime is even worse in other countries than in Britain, according to the first international opinion poll on the issue.

The poll, carried out in March, shows that although a third of Britons feel unsafe walking in their own neighbourhood after dark, insecurity is even higher in other European member states and other parts of the world.

In the former East Germany 60 per cent feel unsafe after nightfall, while in eastern Europe generally, Africa and Latin America, insecurity affects nearly half of all adults.

In Europe fears are highest among older people on low incomes living in cities, and women are more afraid than men, although, as the report points out, statistically women are no more likely to be crime victims than men. Unemployed men feel more than twice as vulnerable as those with jobs.

The findings as far as the European Union member

states are concerned show that 81 per cent of those questioned in Britain expressed fear of going out in the dark, compared with 34 per cent in former West Germany, 29 in France, 37 in Ireland and 39 in Spain.

Those in Scandinavian countries felt safest: only 11 per cent of Danes, 13 per cent of Finns and 19 per cent of Swedes felt endangered going out in the evening.

Asked whether they had had personal exposure to drug related problems in the past 12 months, including seeing people taking drugs, seeing drug dealing taking place or discovering implements such as syringes, 14 per cent of those questioned in Britain said they had.

Similar percentages were registered in France and Germany, but much higher incidences came from the Netherlands (17), Portugal (19) and Spain (24).

Heritage minister asks Sir Jocelyn not to resign over cuts in funding

SIR Jocelyn Stevens yesterday threatened not to continue as chairman of English Heritage if the grants body suffered any further cuts in Tuesday's Budget, writes *Mae Kennedy*.

The Government's funding of English Heritage was cut by 5 per cent last year, to just over £107 million, and it has been warned to expect further cuts in real terms over the next four years.

If the cuts are sharper than predicted, Sir Jocelyn said the body would be unable to meet its legal commitments to

grants already agreed, which amounted to 85 per cent of its spending.

Sir Jocelyn was publicly invited yesterday by the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, to extend his term when it expires in March "for at least another three years, or longer if I have my way".

Sir Jocelyn said he was surprised "by this very public proposition", but warned that, though he would like to see through projects like the Albert Memorial and Stonehenge, he could not stay on if there were further cuts.

"The first thing I did when I started therapy was chuck out 80 bags of shoes and clothes."
Boy George

Friday Review page 10

6 WORLD NEWS

German and British differ to agree

The German Question

IN THE age of poll-driven politics, the no-love-relationship of German-British relations does not quite make sense. Mad cow panic, soccer wars, mutual tabloid abuse, rows over how to dispose of North Sea oil rigs and fundamental differences about Europe's future all point to a powerful estrangement between the two countries.

Ian Traynor reports, in the fifth of a series, on a poll showing that despite an age-old enmity, the British and German people share the same view of Europe

racist attacks in the Berlin area and a German television crew beaten up by English louts at Euro 96. German schoolgirls in London last summer reported regular verbal harassment on the tube, while this week's Goethe Institut survey of British schoolchildren suggests that stereotypical views of Germany persist. The trouble has usually started at the top: in the bad blood, for instance, between Helmut Kohl and Margaret

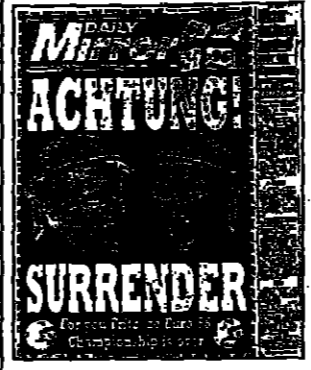
Thatcher, and her hostility to German reunification. The differences persist, in more diplomatic but nonetheless fundamental form, in the sharply opposed governmental views in Bonn and London on the future of Europe. Yet such polarities are not reflected in the opinion polls. You would hardly know it from listening to the politicians in London or Bonn, but the sampling evidence indicates similar grass-roots views in Germany and Brit-

ain on the biggest contemporary issue: Europe. According to Brussels' yearly Eurobarometer polling this year, one third of Germans and Britons are in favour of a single European currency (34 and 32 per cent), while 43 per cent of Britons and 45 per cent of Germans think a single currency will bring disadvantages. Four out of five Germans expect to have the euro in their pocket by 2010, as do 72 per cent of Britons. If 49 per cent of Germans favour a federal Europe, the British are not far behind at 45 per cent. The perception that either country has gained from EU membership is identical at 40 per cent, and support in both countries for a "two-speed" Europe (35 and 34 per cent) and a European government (58 and 59) is remarkably similar.

In certain areas the poll findings confound generally-held assumptions. Britons, for example, seem to trust the European Commission substantially more than the Germans (35-25) — and they are more optimistic than the Germans about the EU single market (52-48) or the future benefits of EU membership (41-33). Given that the British are regularly treated to anti-European broadsides from their politicians and media, while the Germans are fed a strongly pro-EU diet at home, it is arguable that these findings show the British are more pro-EU than the Germans. At a time when focus groups and spin doctors dominate the political process, it is striking how little British politicians seek to milk pro-EU sentiment — and conversely

how under-represented the sizeable Euro-sceptic constituency is in Germany. "There's no doubt that the official. "As soon as the benefits of common European policy are evident, the Germans won't lack support for further European integration." He may be right. But he is not backed by the opinion polls. Regardless of party politics, there is no mainstream politician in Germany opposing Chancellor Helmut Kohl's European mission. Mr Kohl went so far last year as to denounce any such opposition as undemocratic. There is no Norman Lamont or Peter Shore in German politics. The anti-EU punditry favoured by parts of the mainstream British press is almost entirely absent, although doubts persist about the Euro-enthusiasm of Rudolf Augstein, the influential publisher of the weekly Der Spiegel. If the likes of Austria's Jörg Haider surfaced in Germany campaigning on an anti-

Maastricht ticket, those who see the Germans as Euro-neo-fascists might be in for a shock. The same effect is less likely in Britain because Euro-scepticism is ingrained into the two big parties and into the impact of the Falder equivalent in Britain — say James Callaghan — is therefore confined to the fringes. No political leader will risk embracing that constituency during an election campaign. The British and German public may have more in common than is generally believed. But for once, the power of the opinion poll is less than tyrannical. Tomorrow: In the final article on the Comment page, Martin Woolacott sums up Germany's dilemmas. Single currency on track, page 11



Tabloids nurture bad blood public will follow the politicians as long as they go ahead decisively," said a German



Striking drivers use their lorries to block the motorway leading into Bordeaux yesterday, causing petrol shortages in northern France. PHOTOGRAPH: REGIS DUVAL/AGF

Striking lorry drivers cause petrol drought

Alex Duval Smith in Paris FRENCH supermarkets and petrol stations are expected to run out of supplies today as lorry drivers calling for better working conditions mount their fifth day of roadblocks. Traffic chaos, including tailbacks of up to 15 miles was reported throughout France yesterday when more than 10,000 lorry drivers using CB radios drove at snail's pace and blocked the entrances to cities. The drivers are calling for a reduction in working hours and retirement at 55. They have threatened to step up their campaign, despite a government offer to mediate with their employers. Unions and employers began negotiations yesterday — but chances of a swift deal appear slim. The protest began on November 7 with a call for a reduction in fuel taxes. When the government agreed to the demand, it was thought the action would end.

But on Monday drivers began a blockade of petroleum facilities in Bordeaux. This, in combination with lightning tactics to block motorways throughout the week, was reported yesterday to be causing petrol shortages in northern France. The drivers are protesting against their employers' failure to respect an agreement in 1994 to gradually reduce their working month to 230 hours — about 56 hours a week. They have now increased their demands and are seeking payment for the time they spend waiting for goods to be loaded, and retirement at 55. One driver taking part in the Bordeaux blockade yesterday described his working conditions to the Libération newspaper. Jacky, aged 38, said: "I have been cross-country Europe for 21 years, with 40 tonnes on my back, and two square metres to live in. It is my life, six days a week." Jacky said he earned 7,200 francs (€850) in a good month, for up to 240 hours worked.

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Paedophile accusations against Belgium's deputy PM are shaky

Stephen Bates in Brussels ALLEGATIONS that the Belgian deputy prime minister, Elio di Rupo, procured sex with under-age boys began to disintegrate last night as the sole witness against him was discredited as a fantasist. The parliamentary commission set up to study the police evidence against Mr Di Rupo and decide whether his immunity from prosecution should be lifted gave the prosecuting authorities three weeks to come up with more substantial evidence before deputies are asked to vote on his future. Serge Moureaux, a commission member, emerged from a 16-hour meeting saying: "It is an embryonic case — very unconvincing." It has emerged that the alle-

gations against Mr Di Rupo have come entirely from Olivier Trusgnach, a 22-year-old waiter who confessed to the police when he was accused of stealing from his employer. Mr Trusgnach — who reportedly likes to call himself the Pink Baron and sign his name with a title — was described by his mother yesterday as a fantasist. His statements, looked flimsy under examination, and Mr Di Rupo's friends said they could prove he had never met the waiter. Recrimination and anger has been directed against the authorities since the discovery of a paedophile gang and the murdered bodies of four young girls three months ago. For the first time yesterday there were calls for the witch-hunt to stop. The media began to divide on regional lines, the French-language news-

papers generally supported the Francophone Mr Di Rupo against the Flemish media, which has led the allegations against him. Amid suggestions that the allegations had been leaked by police angered at public criticism of their handling of the paedophile case, a Flemish journalist said last night: "There is racism — because Di Rupo has Italian ancestry — homophobia, anti-socialism and political infighting behind this. It is a boomerang against the public prosecutor's office." Marie-France Botte, a campaigner against child abuse, said reporters: "Things have gone too far. We have entered into a climate of incrimination where everyone denounces each other. People are using the paedophile problem to settle scores."

Mrs Botte said her organisation had received hundreds of letters denouncing individuals since the paedophile scandal erupted. It remains far from certain that Mr Di Rupo and Jean-Luc Dehaene's government will survive. In his first public comment on the affair, Mr Dehaene said last night: "In view of the state of the judicial procedure it would be premature at this stage to take a political decision and Mr Di Rupo retains my confidence." The prime minister has privately warned his coalition partners and his own backbenchers of the likelihood of a disastrous election if his deputy goes down. Mr Di Rupo, aged 45, the senior Socialist in the coalition, has denied the allegations, but he has acknowledged that he is a homosexual. He said: "It is a true witch-hunt. Mr Carthyism of the worst kind."

Uproar over 'closed' radio station

Julian Borger in Sarajevo AN ATTEMPT to close Croatia's last independent radio station appears to have been rescinded after triggering some of the biggest demonstrations since independence. A day after closing Radio 101 with the intention of awarding its frequency to a rival, the government's telecommunications agency said yesterday that it could continue for the time being. News of the closure jolted Croatia's normally placid political scene. An estimated 6,000 listeners took to the streets in protest on Wednesday night, supported by the massed horns of Zagreb's taxi drivers. A bigger protest, by war veterans, was expected last night in the city's central square. In London the Foreign Office issued a protest, saying: "This step is inconsistent with Croatia's commitment to the international community to respect the freedom of its media, which

was expressed most recently in connection with its accession to the Council of Europe.... We urge the Croatian authorities to reconsider the decision." Croatia was admitted to the Council of Europe (a body intended to promote civil liberties) in October, on condition that the government improved its human rights record. In recent months the broadcasting authorities have closed down two provincial radio stations, in Varazdin and Istria, leaving Radio 101 as the last bastion of non-government broadcasting. Nino Pavic, owner of Radio 101's would-be replacement, Globus Radio 101, said he would renounce his claim to the franchise and the frequency. Mr Pavic is closely linked to the governing Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). Zlatko Čanjug, an HDZ leader in Zagreb, also appeared to be climbing down. He said last night: "If the decision was made,

it does not mean that it cannot be reversed." Radio 101's director, Silvio Urbanac, went live on air to declare: "This is a shame, this is the beginning of a dictatorship." But later he said he had been assured by several cabinet members, including the minister of justice, that the decision would be reversed. Mr Urbanac accused the Telecommunications Council of reaching a secret deal with Globus.

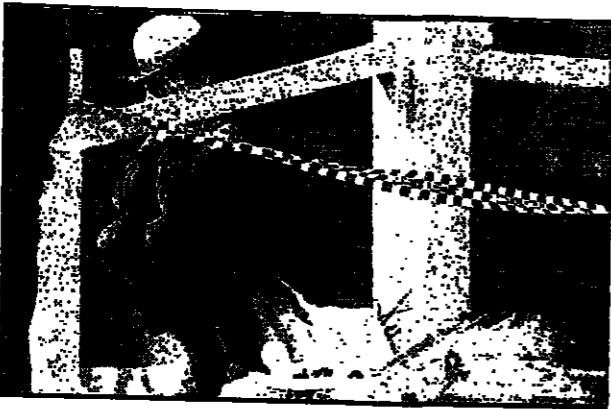
"Now they've realised it can't work," he said. The attempt to silence Radio 101 appears to have been prompted by HDZ hardliners close to President Franjo Tudjman. One of them, Ivica Pasalic, criticised the station for being "too politicised". Ante Masla, a journalist for a Croatian newspaper, was injured on Wednesday when an unknown man shot at his car in Dubrovnik, according to the ministry of internal affairs.

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A loner who killed to be noticed

Missing cash was ignored, say EU auditors



A court profile of Martin Bryant, sentenced today for the carnage in Tasmania, offers clues he refuses to give, reports Mark Bendeich



Martin Bryant, the gunman who murdered 35 people, is to be stripped of his wealth to compensate survivors. Top left, a policewoman weeps at the site of the massacre in April

TASMANIAN MPs voted yesterday to strip the mass murderer Martin Bryant of his wealth, on the eve of the state supreme court's sentencing him for shooting 35 people at a tourist resort on the island in April.

His assets, worth up to \$500,000, are to be sold and the proceeds used to compensate the survivors and bereaved families of the shooting spree at Port Arthur, near Hobart.

The prosecution and defence have agreed that Bryant, who has confessed to the murders after initially pleading not guilty, should be jailed for life.

The court heard that the massacre had shattered the lives of those left behind: the survivors and the relatives suffered suicidal urges, depression, anxiety attacks and nightmares. Many had seen relationships break down.

The prosecution added that some of the 19 wounded had undergone repeated surgery.

His lawyer, John Avery, said Bryant, aged 28, was resigned to spending the rest of his life in prison. Australia does not have the death penalty.

He said Bryant had made him swear not to divulge his motive for the attack.

"He knows fully why he did it and what he did, and he has disclosed that to me," he said in a radio interview yesterday. "I am not at liberty to divulge that of course without his express instructions." In a detailed biography presented to the court, Bryant emerged as a man without friends and of severely limited intelligence. "Bryant was clearly a

distressed and disturbed young man. He was not mentally ill," Mr Avery said, quoting from a medical report. Bryant appeared to blush in the dock.

Recent intelligence tests put him in the lowest 2 per cent of the population, and he was verging on mental disability, the report said.

He also suffered from Asperger's syndrome, a personality disorder not unlike autism which affects 3 per cent of the population.

Bryant grew up in the Tasmanian capital Hobart, the only child of a dock worker and his wife. He left school at 15, and never took a full-time job.

He travelled the world in the past few years, using money bequeathed by an eccentric middle-aged woman who had been his only recent friend.

Helen Harvey employed him to do odd jobs in the late 1980s and took him in as a live-in companion in 1990. Two years later she died in a car crash.

His father, Maurice, the other main influence in Bryant's life, drowned himself at a farm near Port Arthur in August 1993, the court heard.

Within a few weeks, Bryant started making regular trips to Europe, Asia and the

United States "to meet up with normal people", Mr Avery said.

He tried to strike up conversations with strangers, but became "enraged by the frequency with which people would move away from him", said Mr Avery, quoting from the report.

"He became increasingly unhappy and angry at not having any friends."

Bryant began to dwell on his life-long feelings of rejection and, about a year ago, decided that, in his words, he had "had enough."

He contemplated suicide, then the idea of a murderous rampage formed in his mind. He chose for the massacre the ruins of Port Arthur, a convict settlement where some of Australia's most brutal colonial history was written.

Despite finding a girlfriend in the months before the attack, his mind was made up.

He is quoted as saying: "I was set in my mind... I wasn't worried about losing my property or never [seeing] my girlfriend again. It was just in my mind to go down... and kill a lot of people."

Asked why he chose Port Arthur, he said: "It must be the most violent place in Australia. It seemed the right place."

A prosecution psychiatrist, Ian Sale, said: "I think he is basically wired up badly... I think he has always been that way, something of a child in a man's body."

"Perhaps people should see him as some freak of nature, some natural disaster, rather than some malicious human being..." - Reuters.

Stephen Bates in Brussels

OFFICIAL auditors have censured the European Commission for allowing serious spending irregularities in its tourism unit: one of the biggest corruption scandals to have hit the commission.

Members of the unit have been accused of siphoning off funds by demanding kickbacks from tourist boards in return for grants from its \$5 million annual budget.

A report by the Luxembourg-based court of auditors, the European Union's financial watchdog, concluded that the commission had been slow to act: it had delayed in tackling the officials involved and in recovering the money from them.

It added that there were "serious irregularities... and shortcomings" in the allocation of finances by the unit and found that there were problems with up to 40 per cent of contracts awarded in a three-year period.

The money involved was earmarked for a series of pilot projects and studies on improving potential tourist resorts.

The Irish and French tourist boards are believed to have complained when they were asked for kickbacks of 10 per cent of their funding

before being considered favourably for help with projects.

George Tzouanos, the Greek former head of the unit, is in a Brussels prison and his wife is on bail in Greece. Pascal Chatillon, a French former temporary official with the unit, is on bail in France while the authorities decide whether to prosecute.

Heinrich von Melke, the German who headed the department responsible for tourism, will take early retirement at the end of the month. It took him more than a year to call in the commission's financial control unit when allegations of irregularities were drawn to his attention.

The commission has so far refused to lift the diplomatic immunity he will enjoy in retirement so he can be questioned by Belgian police investigators. It says lifting his immunity would be "premature".

The commission has also not acceded to requests made in the summer for police to interview two other senior figures, including the British former acting head of the unit, Alan Mayhew, who is now retired.

Yesterday Edward McMillan-Scott, the British Conservative MEP who has led calls for an inquiry, said there had been "a systematic attempt to hide gross mismanagement of public funds".

Europe set to snub Belarus as fears for freedom grow

John Palmer in Brussels

THE European Union is poised to abandon plans for closer ties with Belarus, alarmed at the speed with which the former Soviet republic is reverting to authoritarian rule.

It had hoped to negotiate an agreement with Belarus which, although it would not open the way to full EU membership, would eventually lead to a free trade area with western Europe.

But Belarus has repeatedly been condemned for the authoritarian stance of its president, Alexander

Lukashenko, who is locked in a deepening confrontation with his critics in Parliament over his plans to expand his already extensive powers.

EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Monday are likely to jettison the proposed agreement.

"The situation in Belarus is becoming extremely serious, and it is certain that the EU will have to react if Lukashenko takes the country further back from democracy to full-scale authoritarian rule," a European Commission official said yesterday.

WILD AT HEART

EASY RIDER

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

FULL METAL JACKET

THE NEW TOYOTA STARLET FROM £8,359

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against e shaky

station

Bosses and workers unite

Government should listen to what they are saying

IT USED to be the case that the bosses said one thing and the unions said another, giving the Government an excuse to ignore both of them and carry on doing something completely different. When, therefore, the TUC and the CBI both agree on a crucial policy the Government has a duty to at least give it serious consideration.

After years of confrontational politics, the CBI and the TUC have recently been siding up to each other. Marriage is hardly in the air but they are certainly starting to date one another. The TUC started it two years ago when its new reconstructionist general secretary, John Monks, invited the director general of the CBI to address its annual conference for the first time. This year the CBI repaid the favour and asked Mr Monks who took the opportunity to suggest that the two organisations put joint proposals to the Government in areas where there was mutual agreement. It was almost as if the class war had been put on hold. Yesterday what may be the first fruits of the new rapport emerged when Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, and Mr Monks urged the Government to leave the personal tax rate unchanged in the budget.

When lobbies of any kind stretch their muscles to demand policies (like abolition of estate duty on the employers side or demands for a wealth tax from the unions) that are patently in their self-interest the Government has a duty to voters not to be bullied into submission. But it is a completely different situation when the two sides of industry are arguing for something which appears to go against their self-interest. In asking that taxes should not be cut, they are both for once putting what they perceive to be the welfare of the economy at large ahead of their own material instincts.

Coincidentally yesterday, the Liberal-

Democrats were calling for more honesty in politics. Paddy Ashdown accused the main two parties of engaging in "an absolutely puerile, pathetic, infantile" debate on tax. Spot on. The Lib-Dems, to their credit, have called for increases in taxation to fund an expansion in education. They have also promised to vote against budget cuts in income tax and believe in any case that whoever wins the election will have to reverse them pretty soon afterwards.

Labour, for its part, has the appearance of a frightened rabbit caught in the Tory headlights as it tries desperately to deny the Conservatives any opportunity to label Labour as the party of higher taxation. The main exception remains Labour's plans to levy a windfall tax on the utilities to fund employment measures for the young. This was debated in the Commons yesterday, unusually, as a Government motion criticising opposition policy. It is almost as if in the midst of election fever the Government thinks it is already the opposition.

This debate produced its own helpings of election double-speak, not least when John Major warned that a tax on the utilities would frighten away foreign investment. Has he not noticed that American companies are in the process of buying up more than half of Britain's electricity utilities notwithstanding the windfall tax in the pipeline?

Honesty in politics won't be re-established overnight. But even at this late stage, the Chancellor ought to take very seriously the joint request of the CBI and the TUC, backed by the Lib-Dems (and by most Labour and Tory voters if opinion polls are to be believed) that on this occasion tax cuts are not what the economy needs. For once the needs of the country should be put above misplaced political agendas. Who are they supposed to be governing for?

Look before you lock-out

Exclusion from school promotes a cycle of criminality

WHICH is easier: visiting 39 schools to examine exclusion policy, or teaching stumpy and disruptive children day after day within them? Teachers' leaders were angry yesterday with the latest report from school inspectors on the exclusion policy of secondary schools. The normally self-controlled David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, dismissed the report for its "banal comments" and called on the Chief Inspector to "come down from his ivory tower and recognise the very real problems posed for schools by the increasing number of disaffected pupils in their midst." The teachers have much to feel aggrieved about: the squeeze on school resources, rising pupil-teacher ratios, and the increasing number of children with serious behavioural problems. They are right to complain about a society which unfairly places responsibility for dealing with seriously disturbed children on teachers' shoulders, while the people responsible for much of the social disintegration — ministers, politicians, parents — become smug armchair critics of their performance. There is a limit to what schools can do in repairing a tattered, divided and deeply unequal society.

Yet the inspectors are right to take exclusion seriously. Doubters should read yesterday's Audit Commission report on juvenile offenders and the part which school exclusions play in the cycle of criminality. Only a small proportion — as low as 15 per cent — of

excluded secondary pupils return to mainstream education. Over 40 per cent of offenders sentenced in youth courts have been excluded from school. Young people who are excluded are more likely to offend — about three times as likely as the non excluded. In the four years to 1995, exclusions increased phenomenally — almost fourfold to 11,000. They end up spending most of their waking hours with little to do — and with "few positive goals to work for". Is it any wonder three quarters of excluded pupils offend, compared to a mere third of the non-excluded? All this is documented by the Audit Commission in its devastating report, not by the inspectors.

Beneath the headlines, the latest inspectors' report is not all bad news. It was the Chief Inspector who rightly observed most schools are safe places — much safer than streets or football grounds. Like the Audit Commission, the inspectors found good practice as well as poor. Effective schools generate a positive ethos, clear rules on behaviour with clear guidelines on what will happen if they are broken, plus rewards as well as sanctions. They provide good pastoral support and are ready to adjust the curriculum for difficult pupils. The best local authorities are providing more training in behaviour management and more support services for seriously disruptive pupils. The challenge is as old as public administration: persuading poor practitioners to adopt the approach of the best.

The supreme bond of parenthood

Transsexuals should have the same rights as everyone else

SHOULD a transsexual, who lives with an heirless for 17 years, be entitled to a share of the assets of the home on the break up of the partnership? The rejection of such a transsexual's claim in the Appeal Court yesterday does not establish a clear principle. The judges made it clear that their decision was based on the circumstances of the case. The judges recognised that although the limited rights of transsexuals under British law had escaped censure by the European Court of Human Rights last time round, strong "winds of change" were blowing. But in yesterday's case, their decision was strongly influenced by the deception of the transsexual in not disclosing her true gender. They were sympathetic to the plight of the transsexual — the psychiatric evidence from her early years, the nature of the disorder, the painful operations involved in removing her breasts, and her understandable reluctance to proceed

with perilous phalloplastic surgery. They remained astonished that the heirless did not realise she was married to a female until a birth certificate was produced after 17 years, but accepted the heirless's testimony that she would not have married her groom if she had known her true gender. Clarification of property rights will have to await future cases, but there is a second set of rights not before yesterday's court which do need re-assessing: the right of the transsexual to maintain contact with her two children born from artificial insemination. Yesterday's claimant had already lost these at an earlier hearing because of the hostility of the heirless to such contacts. Such hostility should have no place in deciding whether contact should be maintained. The children's interests, not the heirless's, should have been paramount. Disrupting their bond with their perceived father will have done neither any good.

JUST a year ago, whilst walking our dogs across local fields, I too detected a strong smell of gas where I knew a new pipeline had been laid (Letters, November 16 and 21). Before phoning the board, I consulted the Ordnance Survey map of the area and so was able to quote the grid reference of the spot concerned. I was rather demoralised by the response: "The reference you've given is no use to us. We don't use them. Now can you explain exactly where the leak is?" Peter Naylor, 70 Sams Lane, Elmston, Swindon SN2 4AZ.



Letters to the Editor

In league against the tables

ALTHOUGH many teachers did not welcome the annual publication of GCSE and A-level performance tables, we have learned to work with them (Exam results below target, November 20). There is a problem, however. Unlike the Football League Tables, published regularly in the newspapers and elsewhere, they do not reflect the most up-to-date information.

During early September this school made appeals to three exam boards concerning the results of several pupils who had received a grade below that expected by their teachers. The results of these appeals have gradually been returned to the school, the final ones arriving by fax on November 15, over two months after the request for a re-marking was made. Several pupils have had their grades revised upwards, but, despite telephone calls and faxes to the DFE, we have been informed that there is no possibility of the school's results being corrected when they are published in the national newspapers.

The overall effect on the school's results is not large (the percentage of pupils achieving five or more higher grades has increased from 60 per cent to 61 per cent); but this is the second time in

three years the school has been in this position. Furthermore, one of the boards has now agreed to re-mark the papers of all the candidates close to a grade boundary, so the changes may become more significant. A number of schools are likely to be in a similar position.

A more worrying point is that the pupils concerned have, in some cases, been planning to re-sit the exams. The grade awarded for GCSE in August was a D. These students have wasted important studying time over a two-month period revising for an exam they no longer need to sit.

Surely there is a need for the Secretary of State for Education & Employment to impose a quality control on the examination boards concerning the re-marking of candidates' scripts after appeals from schools?

Fam Miles, Deputy Headteacher, Bohunt Community School, Longmoor Road, Liphook, Hants GU30 7NY.

THE annual debate surrounding school league tables has become pointless. Both the Government and the Labour Party are committed to their use.

Employers notice the existence of the tables, and regard

qualifications as a base line when selecting candidates for interview. But recruiters are increasingly looking beyond "knowledge" at skills, capabilities and experience.

What we need are tables which highlight vocational achievements as well as GCSEs. The sooner we incorporate skill acquisition into all A-level and GCSE gradings the better. This will bring them into line with GNVQ requirements, and make league tables a far more useful guide for employers and parents.

Roger Optie, Head of Educational Services, The Industrial Society, 48 Bryanton Square, London W1H 7LN.

THE league tables illustrate how some community-run Muslim schools across the country are gaining good results on a fraction of the resources given to state schools.

It is, therefore, sad that the Government does not give any encouragement to our schools, has refused to meet with us to discuss the education of our children and has refused all applications for state funding. Meanwhile, the Government continues to limit the scope of "parental choice" within the state sec-

tor to schools following Judeo-Christian and secularised traditions.

Ibrahim Hewitt, Development Officer, Association of Muslim Schools, 88 Sparkenhoe Street, Leicester LE2 0TA.

POLITICIANS need a lesson in basic statistics: each time the SATS results are published they wring their hands over the number of children failing to reach the set target. Tests are designed so that the average candidate achieves the target, meaning that many will exceed it and many fall short. If all candidates reached the target, then it is too low. An important aspect of test design is to ensure it reflects the range of expected achievement.

Anne R Wilder, 30 Nevilside Terrace, Durham City DH1 4QG.

THE front page of my Guardian said: "How good is your school?" So I bought the paper and looked inside but all I could find were 20 pages of league tables. So, when will you tell us how good our children's schools are? Dennis Charman, 62 Cobbold Road, London W12 9LW.

Side effects of the Pill scare

THE news that the pill scare of late last year has led to 40,000 extra abortions prompts us to express our concern about the gross flaws in the workings of the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) and the Medicines Control Agency (MCA). These bodies are constituted to minimise the dangers new drugs pose to the public, but, via erroneous logic and weak scientific reasoning, achieve the reverse and compromise public safety.

The nub of the problem is the scientific discipline (so-called) of pharmacovigilance and the practice of post-marketing surveillance of newer drugs. In most instances new drugs have already undergone rigorous comparisons of usefulness and safety with older and less safe drugs, during clinical trials of large numbers of patients. The subsequent surveillance exercise involves the reporting of individual suspected adverse events. In very many instances these events are, at worst, unsubstantiated and, at best, occurring at much lower levels than seen with prior generations of drugs.

Thus valuable new drugs are, without sufficient justification, often withdrawn by the CSM, or, like the pill scare, become the subject of lay panic. Public safety is put at risk, either by being left with older and less safe drugs or by having to resort to alternative practices like abortion. We believe there should be an urgent review of the chairmanship of these agencies and the scientific training of the civil servants who run them.

Prof R W Kervin and Dr M J Travis, Institute of Psychiatry, The Maudsley, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF.

From Essex man

AS one born a (south) "man of Essex" when the term had a proud connotation, and who agrees with John Tusa (Letters, November 21) on the unsung wonders of its south, I venture to protest against David McKie's notional separation. What Deprive us of Spping Forest and place magisterial Stansard across the border? Just as I see Scotland as our common heritage, so I'll stand to preserve the Union of Essex (viewed from my window here close to Kent). Fred Emery, 6 Woodsyre, London SE26 6SS.

In the box

JOHN Lloyd persists in claiming that his testimony did not lead the court to convict John Harris (my father) of murder, and hence lead to the death penalty, rather than manslaughter and the 14-year sentence (Letters, November 18). Mr Lloyd appears to have forgotten his interview on Newsnight in May this year.

Peter Snow: "Do you accept that you were at least partly responsible for his execution?" John Lloyd: "Yes, my evidence, (pause) the judge said it was an important part of it." (Dr) David Wolfe, Fen Cottages, Aldringham, Suffolk IP16.

WHILST sitting down the "subs" table from such luminaries as Robin Oakley, John Sergeant and Tony Bevine (The write wing, November 20) may have shown me I was not destined for their giddy heights of journalism. I must report that I was not sacked by the Liverpool Post. Now can you explain exactly where the leak is? Malcolm Bruce MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

HOW about Labour offering HBT the chance to cable up every school and college for free, and in return to promise to waive the windfall levy on BT's profits? This could be presented as BT giving something back to the nation; and it would probably be in BT's financial interests, since it can supply all materials at cost. Michael D Mitchell, 30 Ring Road, Blackwell Heath, Bucks HP10 9BH.

JUST a year ago, whilst walking our dogs across local fields, I too detected a strong smell of gas where I knew a new pipeline had been laid (Letters, November 16 and 21). Before phoning the board, I consulted the Ordnance Survey map of the area and so was able to quote the grid reference of the spot concerned. I was rather demoralised by the response: "The reference you've given is no use to us. We don't use them. Now can you explain exactly where the leak is?" Peter Naylor, 70 Sams Lane, Elmston, Swindon SN2 4AZ.



Parental guidance advised

THE banning of the film *Crash* demonstrates the utter absurdity of the cinema, alone among the arts, being subject to the moral judgment of local councillors (Head-on collision, November 21). This is not, of course, the first time that these self-appointed, woefully ill-equipped guardians of public morality have acted thus (The Devils, Straw Dogs and Clockwork Orange). It is, however, the first occasion of which I'm aware that a local council has written to the British Board of Film Classification, which has had the chance to pass judgment on it.

The BBFC, the only body with the appropriate skills to classify films (however much one may disagree with some of their judgments), is now in the wholly unenviable position of having to judge *Crash* with three separate guns pointed at its head: one belonging to Westminster Council, which has publicly made known to the BBFC the cuts which it requires if the film is allowed to be shown in the West End; another belonging to the mailing bigots of the Telegraph, Mail and Evening Standard; and the third to a craven, populist government engaged in a Dutch auction with those self-same papers on any issue, however threadbare and opportunistic, which might profitably be hitched to a pre-election law "n order bandwagon.

One can only ask the BBFC to stand firm in the face of this rising tide of ignorance and intolerance and to treat *Crash* with the intelligence and sensitivity which it has shown to all Cronenberg's previous work. (Dr) Julian Peasley, Department of Human Sciences, Brunel University, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge UB8 3PH.

On bar codes

WE too condemn abuse by barristers of the legal-aid system (Leader, November 19). That is why we worked with ministers and officials to deliver a scheme — to be implemented in January 1997 — which will help control the cost of criminal legal aid and provide fair remuneration for barristers and solicitors.

Not so the Government's proposals for civil standard fees. They rely on inadequate data, ignore the Government's own research and were produced with little or no consultation. They are inflexible and will render civil legal-aid work uneconomic for senior practitioners, with potentially serious consequences in complex cases. The proposals are geared to lead to fewer settlements and more trials. They will not lead to better access to justice and are profoundly against the public interest. David Penry-Davey QC, Chairman, General Council of the Bar, 3 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DB.

A Country Diary

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: As we slip gently from autumn into winter and begin to complain about the cold it is a useful corrective to be reminded of climates which offer a serious winter. Our mid-European coastal climate, although it can sometimes surprise with extremes, is really only remarkable for low winter light levels — and that's a function of our position on the top quarter of Spaceship Earth. An airmail letter from Canada, postmarked Saskatoon, which arrived last week served to remind me of this. Under the heading *A Voice from the Wilderness*, Stan Bishop, a resident of Tisdale (there are not many) wrote to thank me for advice I had given him on building a fox resistant A-frame chicken house. He had not yet built one but included in his letter some notes on preparing for the Canadian winter which, as he observed, had already started, with overnight temperatures of -18C. Stan and his dog were still hurrying to get the house fit for upcoming overnight falls to -40C in

which outdoor exercise or even getting the logs in for the woodstove, is problematic. Black bear and coyote appear in his field and elk are numerous so his worry about having a fox-free hen-house may be ignoring even bigger threats, never mind the winter cold. Beavers and muskrats are in the slough and overhead recently passed the wildfowl migration on their route southwards. He notes red-tailed hawks, ravens, Brewer's Blackbird, and a snowy owl. The summer had seen a golden eagle, a northern goshawk and an osprey. The extremes of this continental climate also give summer heat and dramatic electrical storms, one of which dropped four inches of rain in 12 hours. The northern lights had been showing since mid-October but it was preparing for intense cold which dominated Stan's agenda. The dog, of its own choice, sleeps outside. He cannot risk bathing her — if she got outside before drying she would freeze solid. COLIN LUCKHURST

Tennis
Becker in celebration semi-final

Stephen Bierley in Hanover
AN atmosphere more suited to boxing than tennis, Boris Becker yesterday earned his place in tomorrow's ATP World Championship semi-final with a fluctuating, palpitating straight-sets victory over Pete Sampras, the world No. 1.



Holding court... Arantxa Sanchez Vicario maintains a tight grip during her victory in New York

Refreshed Sanchez Vicario enjoys thrill of the Chase

Chris Bowers in New York
ARANTXA Sanchez Vicario, who since Wimbledon had seemed to be losing ground at the top of the women's game, announced her presence as a potential champion here with a sharp and disciplined performance to beat Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in the first round of the Chase Championships.

she kept her cool in the tie-break when the backhand pass that would have given her a 5-2 lead was called out by an overrule by the umpire Donna Butler. After a gentle glance at the women's director, she won three of the next four points to seal victory.

Racing
McCoy top of the class with fastest century

Chris Hawkins
TONY MCCOY scored the fastest calendar date century in jumping history when winning on Class of Ninetytwo, beating Peter Scudamore's previous record by 29 days.

Double chance for Maguire

ALL eyes will be on Tony McCoy at Ascot this afternoon, taking a fresh guard and getting his head down in pursuit of a double century, but he may find himself hard to come by, says Adrian Maguire.

Ascot with guide to the form

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Ascot, including race numbers, names, and odds.

BBC-2

Table of horse racing results and form guides for BBC-2, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Southwell all-weather Flat card

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Southwell all-weather Flat card, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Aintree programme

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Aintree programme, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Blinkered for the first time - SOUTHWELL: 2.30 Summer Princess, 3.00 Diamonds, Ascot and Aintree: None.

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Southwell, Aintree, and other tracks, including race numbers, names, and odds.

WARWICK

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Warwick, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Wincanton

Table of horse racing results and form guides for Wincanton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

RACELINE

RACELINE logo and contact information, including phone number 0930 1681 and website details.

Rugby Union

Meet the new Serge Bianco wearing an England shirt

Robert Armstrong on the high hopes pinned on the debut of Tim Stimpson

WHEN Tim Stimpson steps out for tomorrow's international against Italy at Twickenham it will be the most eagerly awaited England debut for years...

and I can just go out and concentrate on my own game. When you've got people like Gary Armstrong, Nick Poplewell, Tony Underwood, Dean Ryan and Rob Andrew taking major decisions and creating a positive atmosphere, you're certain to reap the benefit...



First Tim for England... Stimpson combines the build of a back-row forward and the skills of a three-quarter

Stimpson's vital statistics, 6ft 5in and 15st 7lb, give the Durham University graduate the physical presence of a back-row forward to complement his subtler three-quarter's skills...

Stimpson says that goal-kicking "would not be a problem" yet he is happy to be third choice behind Catt and Rowell. He is also happy to be a back-row forward to complement his subtler three-quarter's skills.

briefly, Jonathan Callard. Each member of that trio had grooved his technique like a golf swing. Rowell's restless quest for a dynamic No. 15 who can create counter-attacks and also render them harmless if necessary has seen him discard Bristol's Paul Hull after a couple of internationals and then promote Catt to No. 10 to make way for Stimpson...

knock-on effect on decision-making, even subconsciously, is inevitable. Rowell's restless quest for a dynamic No. 15 who can create counter-attacks and also render them harmless if necessary has seen him discard Bristol's Paul Hull after a couple of internationals and then promote Catt to No. 10 to make way for Stimpson...

character of the modern game places greater responsibility on the full-back. "You must always keep your eye on the opposition. Fly-half, anticipate what he's going to do and if possible get there first. Never let the ball bounce if you can help it and never waste the chance to turn possession into pressure."

that a privileged position to be in. The Italians had better believe it the England selectors already do. Fly-half, anticipate what he's going to do and if possible get there first. Never let the ball bounce if you can help it and never waste the chance to turn possession into pressure.

Wales turn up the gas

Peter Ward in Dubai. HIGH temperatures — and at times hot temperatures — marked the opening day of the Rugby World Cup Qualifying Sevens Tournament in Dubai...

Seedings for the second day depended on the number of tries scored, and although Wales recovered to win 31-14 their rhythm had gone and their lack of tries relegated them to third place in the ranking list behind South Africa...

Elsewhere in the 24-nation competition the surprises came from the hosts, the Arabian Gulf. They beat Taiwan and Tunisia by identical scoreslines, 21-17, to gain a place among the top eight. They may not last very long against Zimbabwe, whom they will meet on the second day, but their 15 minutes of glory is assured.

Bridgend brush off Back

MATTHEW BACK may have found it difficult to force his way back for most of last season. The Swansea coach Mike Rudnick said talks had already been held with the player...

vic injury ruled him out for most of last season. The Swansea coach Mike Rudnick said talks had already been held with the player. David Campese has virtually admitted his Test career is over after being left on the bench for Australia's game against Ireland in Dublin tomorrow...

would find it difficult to force his way back for the game against Wales in Cardiff next Sunday. Should he not make that line-up Campese, 34, emphasised that he did not want to be selected for the tour finale against the Barbarians...

Golf Norman back in command but Tiger by the tail

David Davies in Sydney

AS TIGER WOODS walked from the 9th green to the 10th tee at Sydney's The Australian club yesterday he was confronted by four grinning young men with beer cans in their hands, almost certainly not their first of the day...

and at worst somewhere else, having discovered an overwhelming interest in golf-course design. Yesterday, though, he said that he was back in the mood. "I haven't had 18 holes of pure concentration and focus for a long time," he admitted.

Nor did he succeed in tightening his game. He did manage to birdie the last hole, but only to break 80 by a single shot to finish with a disastrous 78. This put his 12 shots behind the tournament leader and defending champion, Greg Norman.

Some interesting Tiger-trivia: his drive at the 13th, measured by laser, travelled 345 yards. At the 16th he managed 342 yards and at the 18th, into the wind, it was 315 yards. But still he took 79.

Unqualified misery for Way as 183 fight for 40 Euro Tour spots

PAUL WAY'S hopes of regaining the European Tour place he lost this season dipped when he scored a nine-over-par 81 at San Roque as the 108-hole Qualifying School tournament began yesterday in Spain...

grandee vine is Hertfordshire's Brian Davis (85). Way, one of nine out-of-form tournament winners in 183 men chasing 40 berths on the 1997 circuit, last needed to visit this school in 1981. "I was dreadful and I never knew why I was going on," he said yesterday. "I have lost my confidence. It's a nightmare."

Cricket

Tour match: Victoria v England A

White heat warms A team

Andy Wilson in Melbourne

THE locals were reclaiming Craig White and Adam Hollibaek as two of their own after a blazing first day at the Optus Oval. White, born in Yorkshire but educated in the Victorian gold-mining town of Bendigo, ended eight short of a century and linked up with his captain, who moved to Surrey from Ballarat at the age of 13, in a fifth-wicket partnership of 94 that left England A well placed at 231 for four.

after moving back to Yorkshire, played two Sheffield Shield games for Victoria in 1990. At 27, he is the third-oldest of the party behind Peter Sains and Warren Hegg but is justifying the selectors' belief that he may still have something to offer the full England team.

Sport in brief

Badminton

Peter Knowles, defending his men's singles title, reached the quarter-finals of the Scottish Open in Glasgow yesterday, earning himself the chance of revenge in the process, writes Richard Jones. The England No. 2 outplayed Trygvi Nielsen of Iceland and Scotland's Jim Mailler to set up a last-eight encounter with Ji Xing-Peng of China, who beat him twice this week in the England-China series.

Rowing

It was confirmed yesterday that Mike Spracklen, who coached Steve Redgrave to the first of his four Olympic gold medals in Los Angeles and his coxless pair gold with Andy Holmes in Seoul, is to return to Britain after working for seven years in the United States. He is to become the Amateur Rowing Association's full-time women's chief coach.

Real Tennis

James Male, the world rackets champion, yesterday reached the semi-finals of the British Land Open at Queen's, writes David Frost. In his quarter-final he defeated Chris Bray, the Fawcett professional, world ranked No. 6, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-5.

Cricket

Bob Cottam

Warwickshire's cricket manager for three seasons until 1990, is returning as a bowling consultant.

Golf

Ermie Els and Wayne Westner

shot four-under-par 68s yesterday as the hosts South Africa established a two-stroke lead on the first day of the World Cup of Golf. Els and Westner capitalised on their knowledge of the Erivale

Country Club course

outside Cape Town to score 11 birdies between them in compiling a 136 total, eight under par.

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Ermie Els and Wayne Westner

shot four-under-par 68s yesterday as the hosts South Africa established a two-stroke lead on the first day of the World Cup of Golf. Els and Westner capitalised on their knowledge of the Erivale

Table with 2 columns: Name, Score. Includes names like A. A. Brown, B. A. Brown, C. A. Brown, D. A. Brown, E. A. Brown, F. A. Brown, G. A. Brown, H. A. Brown, I. A. Brown, J. A. Brown, K. A. Brown, L. A. Brown, M. A. Brown, N. A. Brown, O. A. Brown, P. A. Brown, Q. A. Brown, R. A. Brown, S. A. Brown, T. A. Brown, U. A. Brown, V. A. Brown, W. A. Brown, X. A. Brown, Y. A. Brown, Z. A. Brown.

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Sports Guardian

Best's jibes get England coach hot under collar

Robert Armstrong

THE England coach Jack Rowell yesterday made the astonishing accusation that was trying to undermine the England squad's build-up to tomorrow's international against Italy at Twickenham.

Rowell questioned the timing and motivation of a bitter personal attack by Best on the man who sacked him as a coach two years ago. Best also described certain RFU members as "two-faced and gutless" in comments officially published today in Rugby News magazine.

The long-running war of words between the two coaches was given a fresh twist when Chris Sheasby, who is due to win his first cap as England's No. 8 after the late withdrawal of the injured Ben Clarke, suggested he would not have been selected had he remained with Harlequins instead of switching to Wasps last summer.

Best, Quins' director of rugby, pushed Sheasby's international claims with notable lack of success last season.

England include two Quins, Will Carling and Jason Leonard, but the 29-year-old Sheasby strongly implied his England career would have been stillborn had he not switched. "If I had stayed at Quins I would have been pushed by certain people and that would not have gone down well with England in the current climate," said the Wasps forward, who had a well-publicised row

with Best before moving on. Rowell, who supervised an England squad session at Twickenham yesterday, took Best to task in strong terms for his hostile outburst. "It's not my practice to criticise or comment on the work of other coaches," he said. "I don't understand the motivation of other people who seek to disrupt the preparation of the international team."

Best forecast that Rowell would be sacked by the RFU at the end of this season, claiming: "You don't give someone a one-year contract if you have confidence in him. It tells me at least that at the end of the season it's probably 'Goodnight Irene'."

Best also criticised Rowell's team selection last season. "In bringing back Dean Richards he wasted a whole year in the development of the team. He did it to get a result, otherwise he would have been out of a job."

"I don't think he'll be the coach or manager by the time of the next World Cup in 1999. The RFU have to invest in him but the problem is I don't believe they have much faith in him."

There is a possibility Best may face some form of disciplinary action after his contemptuous attack on RFU committee members. "The reason I won't be asked back [to the England set-up] is that I made it patently obvious to a lot of these people that I never even want to see them again. They are two-faced and gutless and I have very little respect for them."

An English Bianco, page 15

SUMMIT MEETING



'He'll find it a much tougher game when he's out of office and no one is giving him those three- and four-foot putts' — Donna Caponi, former US Open champion, on Clinton

Yesterday the world's most powerful man took on the world No. 1. David Davies was there

Georgie left to ponder the Irish question



Vincent Hanna

GEORGE BEST suggested this week that Ireland might field one international football team instead of two. I can't remember George talking politics before, except for his story about the time someone threw a petrol bomb at him. "I drank it," he explains.

I am in Belfast this week and, as a tribute to the general affection in which George is held, no one took the slightest notice of his remarks, which may be emotionally sound but are politically deaf.

Sport is like everything else here, a metaphor for political life: it flourishes as long as politics permit. Which means that in a twinkling it can turn very nasty.

In the past few months in the province we have had some pretty outrageous local leaders seem impatient, or furious, or both.

For new readers a recap. Ireland plays as one nation in rugby and cricket, which are middle-class sports. Tribal differences are set aside in the celebration of internationals at Lansdowne Road. Minor sports flourish in a non-sectarian atmosphere because they are just that: minor. But mostly Northern Ireland operates its own system of voluntary apartheid.

Catholic schools opt for Gaelic games (football and hurling). The G.A.A. bans members of the British security forces from membership.

Protestants do not play. The two tribes are segregated at school, social club and on the playing field. There is little real contact between them except in soccer. There's more than enough real contact there.

Soccer is the working-class game and used by extremists, when it suits them, as a battleground for sectarian strife. There have been three predominantly Catholic teams in the North's Irish FA, this century, two have left and the third are thinking about it.

Belfast Celtic used to play in the same colours as their Glasgow cousins but they closed in 1949 when supporters of Linfield, the dominant Protestant club, invaded the pitch and

Jimmy Jones, the Celtic centre-forward, had his leg broken. Derry City left the IFA in 1973 after sectarian riots; they now play in the FA of Ireland (the Republic's professional league). The two associations field separate international teams. There is no chance of unity.

When I was young I watched Cliftonville, an amateur side and the worst in the IFA. Their ground is aptly called Solitude; their supporters are non-sectarian masochists, united in despair. Once I watched a seagull sleep throughout the second half on the Glentoran crossbar.

In 1974 the club became professional and changing demographics brought more Catholics into their hinterland. They were dubbed the "Fenian" team, Irish tricolours began to appear on the terraces and local paramilitaries on both sides found them handy to exploit.

A few weeks ago coaches carrying Cliftonville supporters to a match in Portadown were attacked by a Loyalist mob, windows were smashed and seats ripped out. Banners said: "Kick Republican scum out of Ulster."

The club chairman Jim Rogers is also chairman of the stupid behaviour, even though local leaders seem impatient, or furious, or both.

There was talk of Cliftonville departing, protests by Protestants (mostly about threats to their voters) and then, as quickly as it began, the violence died down. The past two weeks have been relatively peaceful — one Loyalist explained that "word went out to lay off" — and games have been played with only "peaceful" protests.

THIS week there is more stupidity on display as Catholics boycott some Protestant shops, and Catholic worshippers at a church in Ballymena are abused by a Loyalist mob.

This runs home something I should have learned in the days of South African boycotts, namely that sport does not change society but rather reflects the prevailing political mood. Real change comes only when people demand it or are inspired by great leadership.

Northern Ireland is constantly being told to take risks for peace. Everyone would like to, but no one wants to be first. Except George Best, of course.

Shearer the 30-day wonder

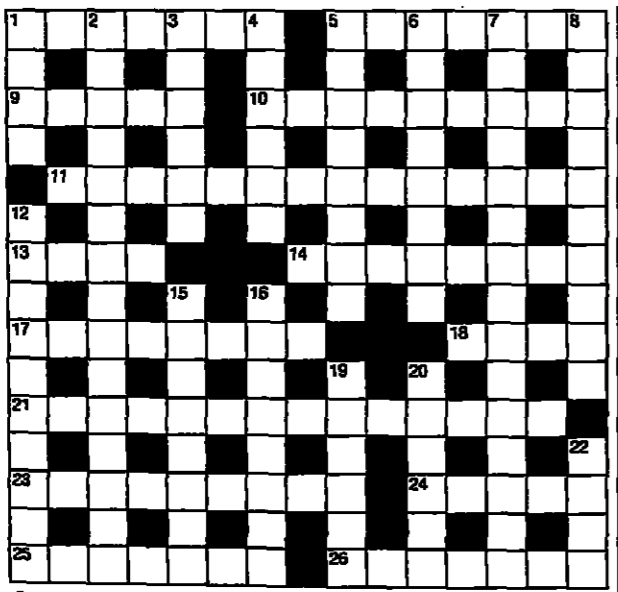
ENGLAND'S captain Alan Shearer will make his Newcastle comeback at Chelsea tomorrow only 30 days after his groin operation, which normally sidelines a player for six to eight weeks.

The £15 million striker came through a full training session yesterday, and Newcastle's assistant manager

Terry McDermott said Shearer almost played against Metz on Tuesday. "If it had been the last game of the season Alan would have played," he said.

Shearer's strike partner Les Ferdinand, out with a depression yesterday, and Newcastle's assistant manager

Guardian Crossword No 20,817



- Across**
- 1 Bend with the king's shield (7)
 - 5 Pinta's unsatisfactory round "The Duke" but it's good for tots (7)
 - 9 Jack books a fortune-teller (5)
 - 10 Prepared CD on lather? It needs versatility (9)
 - 11 Great set-up? A concept based on another (14)
 - 13 Left the plant to get a blow (4)
 - 14 Rugby player's to keep his distance (5-3)
 - 17 The coach falls and one's missing game (8)
 - 18 A fine rozzar catches man on the fiddle (4)

Set by Quantum

- 21,24 Start the business and examine the carpet fixers? (3,4,2,5,5)
- 23 The humiliation produced by a low story? (5)
- 24 see 21
- 25 The artist's assistant could be Welsh (7)
- 26 A long journey involving a lot of lines? (7)

- Down**
- 1 A goat without hesitation is an object of ridicule (4)
 - 2 RA's minute tactic is somehow to support with evidence (15)
 - 3 Talless bird seen around the foam (6)
 - 4 The root is hard, crumbly (6)
 - 5 Deposit the protective force here (6)
 - 6 Sealing but not having the covering on top (6)
 - 7 What to do if one's legs are chilly? Try harder (4,2,4,5)
 - 8 Newcomer could have it after a long hike (10)
 - 12 Shifty lad's back with rug. He's a rogue (10)
 - 15 County uniform (no hat) for a civic official (8)
 - 16 Drops duck, we hear, for an animal (8)

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19 Extremely sound eggs? (3-3)

20 Henry's forty getting a bash. Bubbly? (6)

22 Catch sight of agent from the East (4)

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